

Cabinet Petitions Committee

**26th February 2020 at 5.00pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillors Millard (Chair), Hadley and Taylor.

3/20 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January, 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/20 **Progress Report**

Details were submitted of petitions received and of the action taken or proposed in each case, as detailed in the Appendix.

Resolved that the action taken or proposed, as detailed in the second column of the Appendix, be approved.

(Meeting ended at 5.26pm)

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Appendix

Petition Received From	Action Taken/Proposed
<p>1. Business/residents in the vicinity of Bridge Street South, Smethwick requesting removal of double yellow lines in Bridge Street South or provision of limited parking to enable customer parking.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>2. Residents in the vicinity of Eastwood Road/Jayshaw Avenue, Great Barr requesting that parking be prevented on both sides of Eastwood Road near its junction with Jayshaw Avenue during the day.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>3. Residents in the vicinity of Eastwood Road/Jayshaw Avenue, Great Barr requesting the verge be restored and a replacement tree to be planted in Eastwood Road.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>4. Service users/residents against closure of Brandhall Golf Course and Brandhall Golf and Social Club.</p>	<p>This matter was being investigated by officers and an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>5. West Bromwich market traders, shopkeepers and shoppers requesting that the Council liaises with West Midlands Police regarding anti-social behaviour concerns.</p>	<p>The issues had been raised at Borough Tasking and a subsequent meeting was held with stakeholders including West Midlands Police, SMBC Markets and Town Centre Management, Neighbourhoods Team, Environmental Protection and Enforcement, Sandwell College, Kings Square Shopping Centre and West Bromwich BID to discuss a partnership-based approach to tackling the issues raised in the petition.</p>

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	<p>Each partner agreed to review their operations and to report back the actions they could contribute. A further update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>6. Residents of the Hateley Heath area requesting that the SAPA building on Hateley Heath estate be brought back into use for the community.</p>	<p>The availability of the building for community purposes was advertised in an SCVO newsletter and three formal expressions of interest had been received. The selection process for a community-based organisation to make a bid for the former SAPA building had commenced and an application form would go out to the three organisations who had expressed an interest. The groups would be given 28 days to submit their proposals. A further update would be provided to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>7. Road users and residents in Wednesbury requesting a traffic light system at the junction of Park Lane/Manor House Road and Hobs Road/ Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury</p>	<p>The funding for road safety schemes such as traffic signals was prioritised where injury accidents were occurring. A five-year injury accident analysis showed there had been three recorded injury accidents during this period. This was low when compared to other locations that were being considered for major traffic calming schemes. Although this junction did not meet the criteria for the installation of traffic signals a road safety scheme to implement additional carriageway markings and vehicle activated speed signs either side of the junction would be undertaken. This would help to warn drivers and reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the junction. The Committee requested the junction be monitored to ensure that the traffic calming measures made a difference. Arrangements had been made for a further traffic survey to be undertaken along Park Lane.</p>

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	<p>The data would then be compared to the traffic survey which was undertaken prior to the installation of the vehicle activated speed sign. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>8. Residents of View Point, Tividale requesting installation of night and day gates in the gulley located at View Point.</p>	<p>Greenbelt Group wished to assist in reducing anti-social behaviour and would not oppose the installation of gates in principle, if this represented the wishes of the 299 households which were currently billed in respect of the areas. However, Greenbelt Group had specified that the Council would need to be responsible for the maintenance thereafter, agree to indemnify Greenbelt Group in respect of the gates (e.g. to cover any injury) and agree to fund the removal of the gates, if and when required. The head petitioner had advised that residents were not prepared to contribute. As the land was not in Council ownership the Council could not take on the liability or maintenance of the gates. No further action was proposed by the Council. Following representations, further investigation would be undertaken, and a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.</p>
<p>9. Service users/park visitors requested immediate action to stop the deaths and illness of wildfowl at Victoria Park, Smethwick Hall Park and West Smethwick Park, following a serious pollution incident at Stoney Lane, be desilting the pool and restoring the park pools to a safe environment for wildlife and humans.</p>	<p>Due to a large number of wildfowl death at Smethwick Hall Park, the Council had facilitated a number of meetings with multi agencies including the Environment Agency, Severn Trent, RSPCA, Animal Plant Health Agency and Swan Watch where it was agreed that the build-up of silt at Smethwick Hall Park was the energy source for the Clostridium Botulism.</p>

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	<p>Avian Botulism had been identified as the most probable cause of the bird deaths although post mortems carried out by the Animal Plant Health Authority had proved inconclusive. Overall, presumptive diagnosis was made based on the clinical and epidemiological presentation of the disease and absence of other obvious causes of death on post-mortem examination and laboratory testing. The Council was now in the process of procuring contractors to remove the silt from the pool. Once obtained a report would be provided for consideration. The head petitioner had been informed.</p>
<p>10. Residents of Queens Road, Smethwick had concerns regarding speeding and traffic accidents on Queens Road, Smethwick.</p>	<p>A seven-day traffic survey had been undertaken for Queens Road between Basons Lane and the traffic island at the junction with Warley Road. It showed that 85% of vehicles were travelling at 32.8mph or less (included both directions). A three-year injury collision analysis had also been undertaken and it showed there has been one recorded injury collision. When Queens Road was compared to other roads in Sandwell it had a very low number of injury collisions and did not therefore meet the criteria for the implementation of a traffic calming scheme. Although the vehicle speeds were slightly higher than the 30mph speed limit, this was still within the parameters of 35mph set by the Police for enforcement purposes. However, a carriageway lining scheme was implemented in October last year in response to enquiries received from residents at Queens Road.</p>

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	Following representations submitted to the Committee, a further traffic survey would be undertaken in the Spring/Summer and compared to the survey results from the winter. An update would be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee.